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Date:

7/21/04

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Roger L. Johnston

Art Unit: 3652

Serial No. 10/080,982

Examiner: Paul T. Chin

Filed: February 22, 2002

Confirmation No.: 9956

For: *Triangulated Mobile Gantry Crane*

Attorney Docket: 1266.015

Customer No.: 23598

TRANSMITTAL LETTER FOR PROPOSED AMENDMENTS
FOR RESPONDING TO OFFICE ACTION

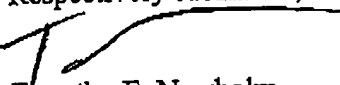
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Attn: Examiner Paul T. Chin

Dear Sir:

Enclosed for Examiner Chin's review are proposed amendments for responding to the Office Action dated April 7, 2004 in connection with the above-captioned patent application submitted for the purposes of discussion during a personal interview to be conducted on Thursday, July 22, 2004. The total length of this transmission, including this transmittal letter, is 6 pages. Should this transmission be incomplete or any pages thereof unintelligible, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number appearing below.

Respectively submitted,


Timothy E. Newholm

Enclosures

Dated: July 21, 2004

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PROPOSED MENDMENT

1. (Currently Amended) A triangulated mobile gantry comprising:

(A) first, second, and third booms, each of which comprises a mobile base that is independently supported on the ground and a vertically extendible lift leg supported on said base and having an upper end, said first boom being positioned laterally between and longitudinally remote from said second and third booms; and

(B) a plurality of horizontal beams that functionally interconnect said lift legs and that are raisable with coordinated lifting of said first, second, and third booms to lift a load, and wherein at least one of the beams is linearly extendible increase the horizontal spacing between two of said booms.

3. (Currently Amended) A triangulated mobile gantry comprising:

(A) first, second, and third booms, each of which comprises a mobile base that is independently supported on the ground and a vertically extendible lift leg supported on said base and having an upper end, said first boom being positioned laterally between and longitudinally remote from said second and third booms; and

(B) a plurality of horizontal beams that functionally interconnect said lift legs, wherein said beams include first, second, and third beams functionally interconnecting said upper ends of said lift legs to form an at least essentially triangular shape when viewed in top plan, and wherein said first and second beams are extendible to increase the spacing between said first and second booms and said first and third booms, respectively.

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7. (Currently Amended) A triangulated mobile gantry comprising:

(A) first, second, and third booms, each of which comprises a mobile base that is independently supported on the ground and a vertically extendible lift leg supported on said base and having an upper end, said first boom being positioned laterally between and longitudinally remote from said second and third booms; and

(B) a plurality of horizontal beams that functionally interconnect said lift legs, wherein said beams include first, second, and third beams functionally interconnecting said upper ends of said lift legs to form an at least essentially triangular shape when viewed in top plan, and wherein said third beam is extendible to increase the spacing between said second and third booms.

13. (Currently Amended) A triangulated mobile gantry comprising:

(A) first, second, and third booms, each of which comprises a mobile base and a vertically extendible lift leg supported on said base and having an upper end, said mobile base being rotatable through an angle of at least 360 ° with respect to said lift leg to steer said gantry, wherein

(1) said first boom is a front boom positioned at a lateral centerline of said gantry ;

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(2) said second and third booms are rear booms positioned on opposite sides of said lateral centerline;

(B) first and second lift beams functionally interconnecting the lift legs of said first and second booms and said first and third booms, respectively; and

(C) a rear cross beam functionally interconnecting the lift legs said second and third booms to one another, wherein the first and second lift beams are raisable with coordinated lifting of said first, second, and third booms to lift a load, and wherein at least one of the beams is linearly extendible increase the horizontal spacing between two of said booms.

17. (Currently Amended) A method comprising;

(A) moving a mobile triangulated gantry over a load by straddling said load with an open front end of said gantry and positioning said load longitudinally between said open front end and a closed rear end, said rear end of said gantry comprising a first boom positioned laterally between and longitudinally remote from second and third booms;

(B) coupling at least one of first, second, and third horizontal beams to said load, said first, second, and third horizontal beams functionally interconnecting said first, second, and third booms to one another; and

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(C) vertically extending said first, second, and third booms in a coordinated manner to raise said first, second, and third horizontal beams and to lift said load; and
(D) linearly horizontally extending at least one of said booms to increase the horizontal spacing between two legs;

18. (Unamended) A method comprising;

(A) moving a mobile triangulated gantry over a load by straddling said load with an open front end of said gantry and positioning said load longitudinally between said open front end and a closed rear end, said rear end of said gantry comprising a first boom positioned laterally between and longitudinally remote from second and third booms;

(B) coupling at least one of first, second, and third horizontal beams to said load, said first, second, and third horizontal beams functionally interconnecting said first, second, and third booms to one another;

(C) vertically extending said first, second, and third booms to lift said load;
and

(D) extending said third beam prior to said moving step so as to increase the spacing between said second and third booms sufficiently to permit a rear end of said gantry to straddle said load.

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